



ATTACHMENT A

PROPOSED NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Goals and Objectives Statement

Sanctuary Vision:

That the vast coral reefs, ecosystems, and resources of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) – unique in the world – be healthy and diverse forever.

Sanctuary Mission:

Carry out coordinated and integrated management to achieve the primary purpose of strong and long-term protection of the marine ecosystems in their natural character, as well as the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian cultural practices and the conservation of heritage resources of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Sanctuary Management Principles:

The sanctuary shall be managed in a manner that:

- 1. Is consistent with the Vision and Mission;*
- 2. Recognizes that the resources of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are held as a public trust;*
- 3. Incorporates and integrates best practices, available science, traditional knowledge, and innovative management techniques in order to have a comprehensive approach to both the ecological and social environment;*
- 4. Honors the significance of the region for Native Hawaiians;*
- 5. Enhances public awareness and appreciation of the unique character and marine environments of the NWHI;*
- 6. Errs on the side of resource protection when there is uncertainty in available information on the impacts of an activity;*
- 7. Authorizes only uses consistent with the primary purpose of resource protection and applicable law;*
- 8. Coordinates with federal, state, and local governments, Native Hawaiians, and appropriate organizations;*
- 9. Carries out appropriate and effective enforcement and surveillance and associated public outreach.*

Sanctuary Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1: Protect, preserve, maintain, and where appropriate restore the natural biological communities, including habitats, populations, native species, and ecological processes, of the Sanctuary as a public trust for current and future generations.

Objectives:

- 1a. Develop and implement a comprehensive management plan that integrates best practices, available science, traditional knowledge, and innovative management techniques, and addresses both short-term and long-term resource protection needs.
- 1b. When there is uncertainty in available information regarding the potential impacts of any activity, err on the side of resource protection.
- 1c. Develop and implement the necessary prohibitions, rules, regulations, and penalty schedules to achieve the primary purpose of resource protection and address the needs of the Sanctuary.
- 1d. Develop and implement a surveillance and enforcement program needed to ensure compliance with regulations.
- 1e. Cooperate with regional and global programs encouraging conservation of marine resources.

Goal 2: Provide for comprehensive and coordinated conservation and management that recognizes and complements existing jurisdictional boundaries and management regimes and involves stakeholder communities.

Objectives:

- 2a. Develop and implement regional and global approaches, interagency agreements, and processes with partners to address key cross-jurisdictional activities such as education, research and monitoring, enforcement and surveillance, and access.
- 2b. Create a permit, notification, and tracking system for access and use that is compatible and coordinated with partner agencies.
- 2c. Coordinate all activities to minimize impacts to ecosystems, avoid redundant or duplicative efforts, and to achieve efficient use of agency resources.
- 2d. Engage representative stakeholder communities and the public in seeking advice for effective management.

Goal 3: Manage, minimize, or prevent negative human impacts by allowing access only for those activities that do not threaten the natural character or biological integrity of any ecosystem of the region.

Objectives:

- 3a. Allow access only for activities consistent with long-term ecosystem protection.
- 3b. The management system shall continue to allow Native Hawaiian cultural, religious, and subsistence uses.
- 3c. Develop a marine zoning system that prescribes further limits on use to enhance ecosystem protection and ease of management and enforcement.
- 3d. Develop a permitting and tracking system to identify, evaluate, and monitor activities.

- access, and uses in order to ensure consistency with long-term ecosystem protection.
- 3e. Develop other measures as may be necessary to ensure long-term ecosystem protection.
 - 3f. Work with the appropriate domestic and international agencies to adopt a notification requirement for transiting non-military vessels and the designation of special maritime zones on nautical charts.

Goal 4: Enhance public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the marine environment and cultural and maritime heritage resources.

Objectives:

- 4a. Develop public outreach and education programs with partners to raise public awareness of NWHI marine ecosystems and the need to protect them and to effectively communicate access and use restrictions.
- 4b. In order to minimize the use of and impact to the region, plan and establish programs that emphasize the concept of bringing the place to the people, rather than people to the place.
- 4c. Increase the awareness of marine conservation in the NWHI by emphasizing the global nature of threats to the ecosystems and the importance of the region to the state, the nation, and the world.
- 4d. Enhance the effectiveness of education programs and public outreach by incorporating Native Hawaiian culturally based themes and traditional approaches to learning, multiple perspectives, histories, and stories of the region.

Goal 5: Support Native Hawaiian cultural, religious, and subsistence practices that are consistent with the long-term conservation and protection of the region.

Objectives:

- 5a. Build capacity within the Sanctuary program to develop a working relationship with Native Hawaiians to facilitate their participation in the management of the Sanctuary.
- 5b. Develop a plan for Native Hawaiian access and use in the NWHI collaboratively with Native Hawaiians and regional partners.
- 5c. Increase understanding of Native Hawaiian histories and cultural practices in the NWHI through research and oral traditions.
- 5d. Integrate Native Hawaiian traditional knowledge, values, and perspectives into management and education programs.

Goal 6: Support, promote, and coordinate research and long-term monitoring that improves management decision-making and is consistent with the conservation and protection of the region.

Objectives:

- 6a. Identify, assess, prioritize, and authorize ecological, historic, cultural, and socioeconomic research and monitoring necessary for effective management of the region.
- 6b. Coordinate with regional and national agencies to make vessels and other resources available for conservation and research activities.
- 6c. Compile existing research and avoid duplication by collaborating and coordinating with jurisdictional partner agencies and universities.

- 6d. Develop the ability to quickly assess and respond to unexpected, rapid ecological changes that have occurred as a result of storm events, dramatic climate and temperature shifts, and other occurrences.
- 6e. Establish criteria for cultural research activities through consultation with the Native Hawaiians.
- 6f. Work with partners and researchers to make NWHI research available and accessible to the public in a timely manner.

Goal 7: Maintain ecosystem integrity by limiting and controlling fishing activities using an ecosystem-based management approach. Maximize ecosystem protection while minimizing adverse socioeconomic impacts. Limit fishing activities to areas that minimize or prevent interactions with corals, seabirds, endangered Hawaiian monk seals, and other protected wildlife, or that do not threaten the natural character or biological integrity of any ecosystem of the region.

Objectives: As appropriate to maintain the natural character or biological integrity of any ecosystem of the region:

- 7a. Prohibit non-subsistence crustacean fishing.
- 7b. Prohibit commercial precious coral fishing.
- 7c. Prohibit harvest of all coral species, live rock, all aquaria species and live fish trade species, and algae, sponges, and other invertebrates.
- 7d. Allow recreational fishing for pelagic species except within sensitive habitats.
- 7e. Allow bottomfish fishing to continue except within sensitive habitats.
- 7f. Allow commercial pelagic fishing using handline, pole and line and trolling gear except within sensitive habitats.
- 7g. Prohibit subsistence use within the sanctuary except for Native Hawaiian subsistence use.
- 7h. Allow sustenance fishing for pelagic and bottomfish species using pole and line, trolling and handline methods with the Sanctuary except within sensitive habitats.
- 7i. Allow spearfishing without the use of SCUBA for pelagic species except within sensitive habitats.
- 7j. All fishing not specifically allowed shall be prohibited.
- 7k. When there is uncertainty in available information regarding the potential impacts of any fishing activity, err on the side of resource protection.